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CIA 104 Marchetti
VICTOR

C.I.A. Will Seek to Excise Parts of Book by Ex-Aide

By JOHN M. CREWADSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20 — The Central Intelligence Agency has told the American Civil Liberties Union that it will oppose the publication of about 100 pages of allegedly classified material contained in an account by a former C.I.A. official of the agency's internal workings.

Melvin L. Wulf, legal director for the A.C.L.U. in New York City, said today that he had been notified by the agency that officials there planned to excise "near to a hundred pages" from a 530-page manuscript by his client, Victor L. Marchetti, a former assistant to the C.I.A.'s deputy director.

Mr. Wulf submitted the manuscript to the intelligence agency for review on Aug. 27, under the terms of a Federal court order handed down a year ago.

That occasion marked "the first time in the history of the United States," according to Mr. Wulf, that an author had been required by official order to submit a manuscript to the Government for prior censorship.

Security Peril Denied

Both Mr. Wulf and Mr. Marchetti, who are the only two individuals outside the C.I.A. to have seen the manuscript in its entirety, said that they believed it contained nothing that would jeopardize the national security.

But a knowledgeable Government official described some of the material in an outline for the Marchetti book, tentatively titled "The Cult of Intelligence," as dangerous, and said that, if the agency had allowed its publication, it "would have blown us out of the water in a lot of places—identities exposed."

Mr. Wulf said that he expected to receive from the C.I.A. next week a letter detailing the passages to which the agency objected. He said that he and Mr. Marchetti would then meet with representatives of the Alfred A. Knopf Company, the book's publisher, to discuss the proposed excisions.

Mr. Marchetti said in a telephone interview that although he wanted to wait until he knew the exact passages the agency was focusing on, "my feeling is to get back as hard as we can to punch."

Mr. Wulf said that he expected

the appellate decision, which stipulated that Mr. Marchetti could seek judicial review of any disapproval of a manuscript, or portions of one by the C.I.A.

Mr. Marchetti, who spent 14 years with the C.I.A. before retiring in 1969, has previously published one novel, "The Rope Dancer," which concerns the activities of a fictional "national intelligence agency," and an article in the April 3, 1972, issue of The Nation magazine that was critical of some of the agency's activities.

He said today that he was currently working on a second novel that was based on a "purely fictional" insane asylum operated by the agency where wayward or "burned-out" operatives were sent to recover.

Although Mr. Marchetti submitted "The Rope Dancer" to the C.I.A. for review, another former agency employee, E. Howard Hunt Jr., wrote several dozen novels under different pseudonyms, during his service with the agency, many of which dealt with the exploits of fictional intelligence operatives.

A knowledgeable source said yesterday that Hunt, who pleaded guilty in January to charges of bugging the Democratic party's Watergate offices, was never required to submit his works for review because the agency was unaware that they were being published.

WOLF, Melvin L.

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